

Faculty Senate Minutes
Minutes of March 2, 2007

FACULTY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS		PROXY
Bill Humphrey—Chair	P	
Richard Freer—Vice-Chair of the Senate	P	
Louella Moore-Faculty Association President Elect	P	
Lillie Fears —Secretary Faculty Association	P	
Judith Pfriemer—Secretary of the Senate	A	
AGRICULTURE(1)		
Bert Greenwalt	P	
BUSINESS(3)		
Mark Foster	A	
Richard Segall	P	
Ahmad Syamil	P	
COMMUNICATIONS(2)		
Lillie Fears	P	
Pradeep Mishra	P	
EDUCATION (5)		
Cindy Albright	A	
Daniel Cline	P	
David Holman	P	
Marci Malinsky	A	
Amany Saleh	P	
ENGINEERING (1)		
Shivan Haran	P	
FINE ARTS (3)		
Stacy Alley	P	
Tim Crist	A	
Alyson Gill	P	
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (6)		
Robert Baum	P	
Win Bridges	P	
Mary Donaghy	P	
Eric Gilbert	A	
Joe Sartorelli	A	
Richard Wang	P	
LIBRARY (1)		
Myron Flugstad	P	
MILITARY SCIENCE(1)		
LTC Larry P. Aikman	A	
NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS (4)		
Donna Caldwell	A	
Richard Freer	P	
Cathy P. Hall	A	
Judith Pfriemer	A	
SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS (4)		
Bob Bennett	P	
William Burns	A	
Jeff Jenness	A	
Jie Miao	A	
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (1)		
Gloria Bridges	P	

Chairman Humphrey called the meeting to order at 3:05pm.

I. MINUTES: No minutes presented for approval.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. President Humphrey reported on Arkansas Consortium of Faculty Senate Chairs meeting. The group looked at and endorsed concurrent enrollment legislation and wrote a letter to Department of Higher Education Deputy Director endorsing the draft that required an ACT of 19 or above to enroll. The group also discussed concerns about financial aid being used to pay parking fines. Some campuses such as Fort Smith/UAF were looking at adopting an academic integrity/dishonesty policy modeled after that of Oklahoma State University. Senator Madison was invited to come discuss textbook issues with the group but either did not choose to or was unable to attend.
- B. Gil Fowler sent word that volunteers were still needed to interview Honors Scholarship applicants the following day March 3 from 9:30am to 3:00pm.
- C. Senator B. Bennett asked for a report on the status of the Faculty Handbook. Dr. Humphrey reported that the AGOC and IGOC were to take a proposal to Chancellor Potts next week for a system to put Senate's Faculty Handbook Committee back into the handbook change process. Executive Committee has met with Chancellor Potts a couple of times. Dr. Potts is working on the preface language and other concerns in the handbook. Hopefully, this may be brought to the Faculty Senate the meeting just before Spring Break. Discussions are apparently ongoing between the university lawyer and other lawyers on staff (Potts & Jones) concerning case law related to language in the Faculty Handbook.
- D. Dr. Cline asked about the status of the Health Clinic fee and mentioned Marburger's letter about the Recreation Center. Dr. Humphrey replied that it is not clear whether the Health Clinic fee will materialize as part of the Budget. Dr. Bennett had begun to ask a question about Athletic Center, but this was cut short or dropped due to arrival of invited speaker Chief Information Officer, Mark Hoeting.
- C. Mark Hoeting discussed the proposal to discontinue the Microsoft agreement which costs roughly \$500,000 per year. Because of new language in the proposal that allows students and others to gain access only to upgrades rather than full versions of software, the Technology Appropriations Committee had discussed whether the \$500,000 funded from the technology fee might be better spent in other ways. The first year the campus would have to buy out existing rented licenses for a fee of approximately \$175,000. After that the university would save the \$500,000 but would have to allocate additional moneys to the cost of machines purchased in order to cover new software. This could possibly be handled by increasing the allowed cost of machine purchases from \$1300 to \$1400 in order to hold departments at a cost neutral position. A position paper was distributed highlighting other financial aspects of the plan include the number of users currently upgrading. Mr. Hoeting noted that he was seeking feedback and could be reached at cio@astate.edu. The plan is currently slated to be presented to the UPC on March 16.

Some Senators noted that they would feel more comfortable with the proposal if it were known exactly what the students and other constituents will be receiving instead of the \$500,000 worth of service. The Senator from Engineering noted that for collaborative work in his field it is imperative that all students have the same version of software and that the typical Home Edition installed on student computers is not adequate.

Allyson Gill asked about the status of Frontpage. Specifically, will faculty have to migrate from Frontpage to Dreamweaver? Mr. Hoeting noted that ASU will continue to support Frontpage as long as possible but some unknown migration will probably be required in the future. Dreamweaver classes will be scheduled for Summer.

Other Senators noted additional concerns about making sure the Microsoft changes are made cost neutral to departments and that the changeover would be more saleable to students if they knew what they will receive in exchange for what students will perceive as lost benefits while still paying the full technology fee.

A question was asked about agreement vs. purchase being done differently for faculty, staff, or student groups. Mr. Hoeting noted that was possible, as was making separate decisions for operating systems vs. other types of software.

Another question was about the anticipated migration to VISTA. Mr. Hoeting noted that he anticipates 12 months lag before adopting this on campus because the system is a resource hog that older machines would not have capacity to handle and because of network security issues for new packages.

After Mr. Hoeting left the meeting Senators still continued to discuss the uncertainty about other uses of the money and the potential to slow down the decision to give time for ASU to consult with other universities being faced with a similar decision. One Senator suggested all Senators get feedback from their colleagues by the next meeting even though the proposal may have been aired to the UPC before the next meeting.

D. Drs. Susan Allen and Andy Sustich were invited to talk about Graduate Assistantship issues. Dr. Sustich was out of town, but Dr. Allen addressed the Senate. According to Dr. Allen Graduate Assistantships are apparently running over the allowed budget amount. She said she did not currently have the details on how much or why. She and assistant Stacy Somers are looking into the situation and Dr. Allen will give a full report at a later date, perhaps in 2 weeks. Dr. Allen was asked about the ramifications. She said it is not possible to say until the full amount is known.

Dr. Allen and the Senators also talked about general policies for G/A's. Even with some additional Assistantship money from ABI, the pool for Graduate Assistants has stayed about the same. With increases in graduate enrollment and the addition of new programs, the Graduate Council and Academic Budget Committee are discussing to what extent existing systems of allocating Graduate Assistants may need to change.

On the issue of the appropriate uses of GA's, multiple Senators expressed the view that one size will not fit all Colleges and the program needs have to be considered. There was discussion of the wide variety of GA, RA, and TA activities including use of graduate students as de facto instructors of record. Senator Freer discussed the need for a crash course in teacher training for teaching assistants and even for new faculty. Dr. Bennett noted that his department does closely supervise and have weekly meetings with Lab Assistants. Concern was expressed about providing differential pay for teaching assistants versus other types of assistants, though some Senators noted that some graduate assistants currently receive higher amounts than others either through departmental supplement for TAs or through grant funding.

There was discussion about whether assistants in some college have very loose guidelines for work activities. Dr. Allen expressed the view that it is not appropriate to use GA's for purely clerical activities and that GA's should support the graduate programs or at least provide support to the related undergraduate programs. In addition GA activities should support the development of students' professional skills.

Dr. Cline noted that if graduate enrollment has gone up, but the pool has stayed the same, then academics has effectively been 'robbed'. Dr. Armany asked about the possibility of tuition waivers for graduate assistants. Dr. Allen noted that tuition waivers are indeed an idea worth considering, but this will probably not appear in the current year's budget cycle.

III. Old Business None presented.

IV. Announcements

See New Business, sections A – D.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

Minutes prepared by L. Moore.